

## **LISTING OF CLAIMS:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) An electric operation apparatus comprising:

a high-frequency generating device which generates high-frequency current for treating the body anatomy;

an active electrode which supplies to adapted to supply the body anatomy with the high-frequency current generated by the high-frequency generating device;

a solution supply device which supplies a conductive solution around the active electrode;

a return electrode which returns, via the conductive solution supplied by the solution supply device, the high-frequency current supplied to the body anatomy from the active electrode in the conductive solution;

a sensor which detects a conductive state of the high-frequency current that flows between the active electrode and the return electrode; and

a control device which determines a state of bubbles generated around the active electrode and which changes an operation mode, based on the conductive state of the high-frequency current detected by the sensor, the control device has a first operation mode for starting the discharge operation using the active electrode and a second operation mode for changing the conductive state of the high-frequency current after the start of discharge operation in the first operation mode; and

an air supply device which supplies air near the active electrode arranged in the conductive solution, the control device controlling the air supply device and changing the operation mode.

2 – 11 (Canceled)

12. (Currently Amended) An electric operation apparatus according to Claim [[5]] 1, wherein the control device operates the air supply device in the first operation mode, and stops the operation of the air supply device in the second operation mode.

13. (Currently Amended) An electric operation apparatus according to Claim [[5]] 1, wherein the control device operates the air supply device after outputting the high-frequency current to the active electrode only when no discharge operation starts in the active electrode, and stops the air supply device when the discharge operation starts in the active electrode.

14 – 15 (Canceled)

16. (Original) An electric operation apparatus comprising: according to Claim 7,

a high-frequency generating device which generates high-frequency current for treating the body anatomy;

an active electrode which supplies to adapted to supply the body anatomy with the high-frequency current generated by the high-frequency generating device;

a solution supply device which supplies a conductive solution around the active electrode;

a return electrode which returns, via the conductive solution supplied by the solution supply device, the high-frequency current supplied to the body anatomy from the active electrode in the conductive solution;

a sensor which detects a conductive state of the high-frequency current that flows between the active electrode and the return electrode; and

a control device which determines a state of bubbles generated around the active electrode and which changes an operation mode, based on the conductive state of the high-frequency current detected by the sensor, the control device has a first operation mode for starting the discharge operation using the active electrode and a second operation mode for changing the conductive state of the high-frequency current after the start of discharge operation in the first operation mode; and

a heating power supply device which generates power for heating the active electrode arranged in the conductive solution, the control device controls the heating power supply device, and changes the operation mode,

wherein the high-frequency current is outputted to the active electrode, nearly simultaneously, the heating power supply device outputs DC or AC current to heat the active electrode and, upon detecting the start of discharge operation in the active electrode, nearly simultaneously, the control device stops the DC or AC current outputted from the heating power supply device.

17. (Currently Amended) An electric operation apparatus according to Claim ~~[[7]]~~ 16, wherein an edge portion of the active electrode is spiral-shaped or saw-blade-shaped.

18. (Currently Amended) An electric operation apparatus comprising: ~~according to Claim 8,~~

a high-frequency generating device which generates high-frequency current for treating the body anatomy;

an active electrode which supplies to adapted to supply the body anatomy with the high-frequency current generated by the high-frequency generating device;

a solution supply device which supplies a conductive solution around the active electrode;

a return electrode which returns, via the conductive solution supplied by the solution supply device, the high-frequency current supplied to the body anatomy from the active electrode in the conductive solution;

a sensor which detects a conductive state of the high-frequency current that flows between the active electrode and the return electrode;

a control device which determines a state of bubbles generated around the active electrode and which changes an operation mode, based on the conductive state of the high-frequency current detected by the sensor, the control device has a first operation mode for starting the discharge operation using the active electrode and a second operation mode for changing the conductive state of the high-frequency current after the start of discharge operation in the first operation mode; and

an evaporation detecting portion which detects vapor of the conductive solution so as to detect the state of the bubbles near the active electrode, the control device changes the operation mode based on a detection result of the evaporation detecting portion,

wherein the control device operates the high-frequency generating device so that the peak of the high-frequency power or a crest factor of the high-frequency current is increased before detecting the evaporation of the conductive solution in the first operation mode, and operates the high-frequency generating device so that the peak of the high-frequency power or the crest factor of the high-frequency current is decreased after detecting the evaporation of the conductive solution in the second operation mode.

19. (Currently Amended) An electric operation apparatus ~~according to Claim 9, wherein~~ comprising:

a high-frequency generating device which generates high-frequency current for treating the body anatomy;

an active electrode which supplies to adapted to supply the body anatomy with the high-frequency current generated by the high-frequency generating device;

a solution supply device which supplies a conductive solution around the active electrode;

a return electrode which returns, via the conductive solution supplied by the solution supply device, the high-frequency current supplied to the body anatomy from the active electrode in the conductive solution;

a sensor which detects a conductive state of the high-frequency current that flows between the active electrode and the return electrode; and

a control device which determines a state of bubbles generated around the active electrode and which changes an operation mode, based on the conductive state of the high-frequency current detected by the sensor, the control device has a first operation mode for starting the discharge operation using the active electrode and a second operation mode for changing the conductive state of the high-frequency current after the start of discharge operation in the first operation mode; and

a promotion holding portion which promotes the generation of bubbles near the active electrode or holds the bubbles, the control device controlling the promotion holding portion, and changing the operation mode; the promotion holding portion [[is]] being a solution supply stop portion which temporarily stops the solution supply of the conductive solution through the solution supply device, and the control device operates the solution supply stop portion in the second operation mode.

20. (Canceled)

21. (Currently Amended) An electric operation apparatus comprising: according to Claim 10,  
wherein

a high-frequency generating device which generates high-frequency current for treating  
the body anatomy;

an active electrode which supplies to adapted to supply the body anatomy with the high-  
frequency current generated by the high-frequency generating device;

a solution supply device which supplies a conductive solution around the active electrode;

a return electrode which returns, via the conductive solution supplied by the solution  
supply device, the high-frequency current supplied to the body anatomy from the active electrode  
in the conductive solution;

a sensor which detects a conductive state of the high-frequency current that flows  
between the active electrode and the return electrode; and

a control device which determines a state of bubbles generated around the active  
electrode and which changes an operation mode, based on the conductive state of the high-  
frequency current detected by the sensor, the control device has a first operation mode for starting  
the discharge operation using the active electrode and a second operation mode for changing the  
conductive state of the high-frequency current after the start of discharge operation in the first  
operation mode; and

a discharge promoting portion which promotes the discharge operation in the active  
electrode, the control device controlling the discharge promoting portion, and changing the  
operation mode, the discharge promoting portion [[is]] being an air supply device which supplies  
air near the active electrode arranged in the conductive solution.

22 – 32 (Canceled)